



Photo History



From August 2020 (Volume 113)





August 2020.

It is slowly becoming very obvious that the Coronavirus has changed society , not only in the UK but around the world. Both economically and also in the way we live. Society adapts very quickly and what is now called 'The New Norm' will very quickly become everyday . Close contact will be avoided and long distance travel will be curtailed. Many familiar businesses will not reopen and on-line working , communication and trading will be much more evident. It seems that the virus is a long term evil which whilst not mutating into other forms can be caught again without any immunity being present from the initial contagion. This, hopefully , will change and the sought after vaccines will prove both efficient & readily available for everyone. Irrespective of ability to afford it.

On a personal level life continues. With a few obvious changes.

On the way back from the Quantocks Hills we spent one night at a delightful B&B close to Bristol and we went to visit DP's Paradise Pop-Up which was a tented camping experience situated on the shore of a beautiful lake-Chew Magna

People were camping out and enjoying some great food and stimulating discussions hosted by DP and we were so proud of the way DP organised the whole event. We met Angela , Peachy , Beau and Binky there before they went off to Devon for a break.

Ben is now working from home certainly until the end of January next year but it is the norm with the Silicon Valley Bank anyway and he had adapted well to this environment. Tammy has recently experience an escalating eye problem to the point where emergency operation is now needed as her sight is greatly impeded so we hope this will be very soon now.

Lynn and I are noticeably slowing down despite our efforts to keep fit and Lynn continues to run nearly every day in the park...my leg is painful but the on-line physio seems to help..

We have had lots of informal garden lunches and teas here with many friends all distanced around the garden and likewise we have been invited back to a similar 'spread out' hospitality.

1st September was the 'return to school day' after lockdowns etc since end of March so many traumas expected such as "social distancing' and 'mask-wearing' problems. It seems like the schools will contain groups in 'bubbles' so if there is a virus outbreak they will not have to close the entire school. How manageable this is will have to be seen. Buses are now running school 'children only buses'

In town there are now new 'no car zones' attempting to encourage cyclists and walkers. But the stupid extension of congestion zone hours plus increased charges has angered retail businesses who are really struggling financially. It's also 'back to work' day but again many difficulties here. Lots of companies have now seen how working from home (known as WFH) shows increased production plus staff benefitting without massive commuting costs. Obviously this only applies to certain businesses and hairdressers, plumbers, hospitality etc have no option. They must open with 'social distancing' in place which often makes their operation not viable as numbers are too low for profitability. Many retailers are not reopening and major redundancies are already evident.

There are many job seekers but not many jobs being advertised. The massive cost of the government financing 'furlough payments' and discounted food assistance etc etc has cost totals previously never seen in peace time and this will have to be recouped . It sounds like the UK has fared much worse than most European countries but the real figures world wide will slowly leak out.

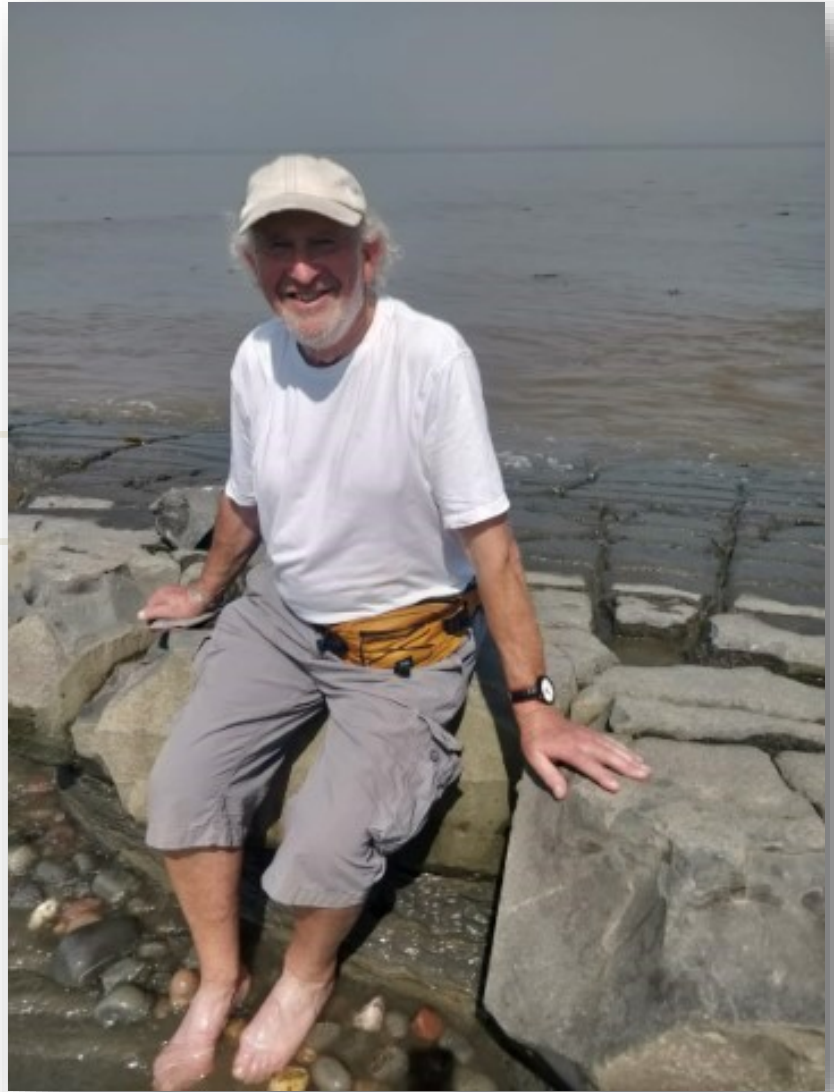
Whatever the final figures are...Coronavirus has caused untold universal problems without even considering the human toll.



Photo History



The rocky foreshore at Kilve beach fascinated us and the weather was scorching too





The old water mill at Combe House Hotel. was even adapted to polish guest's shoes





Photo History



After a long hot walk in the hills we enjoyed the cool water in 'The Bumps'



Our leisurely walk was wonderful with horse riders, walkers and cyclists enjoying the beauty



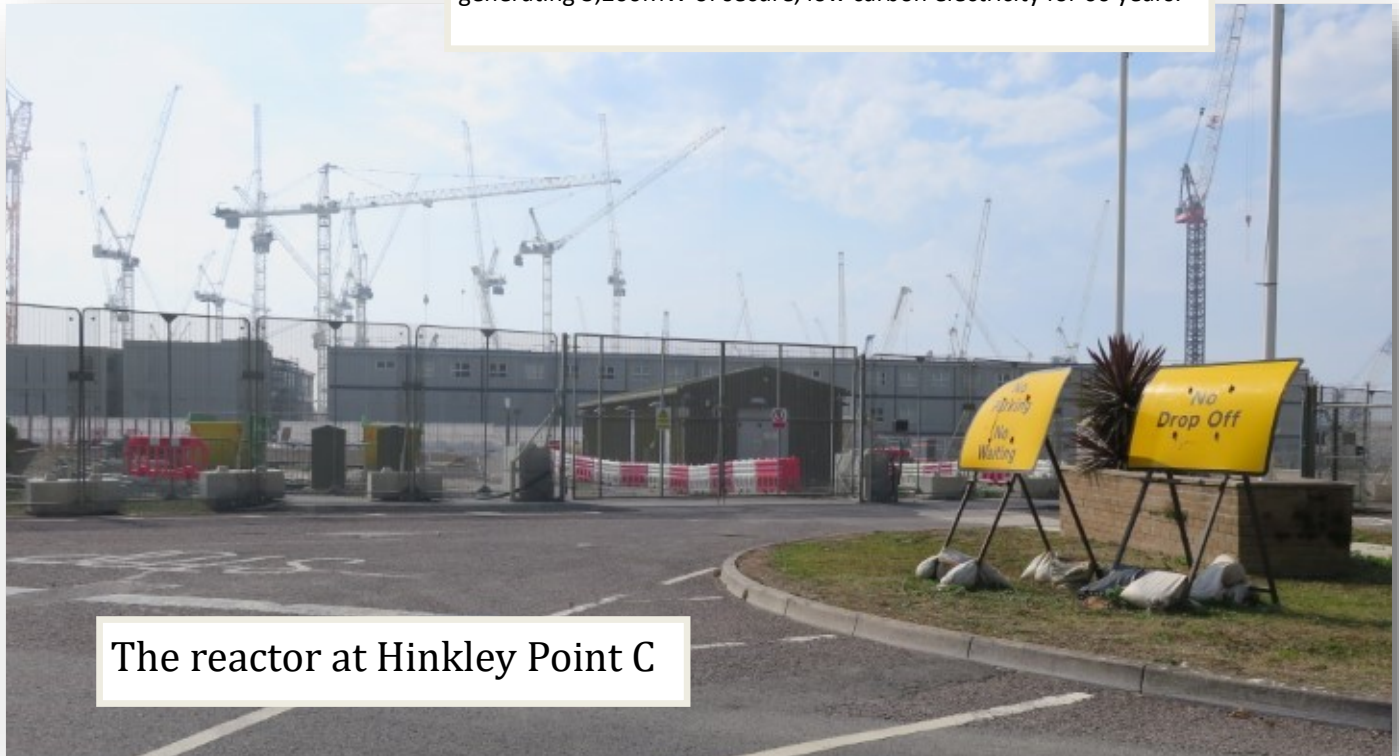


This old ruined mill was used a film set





Hinkley Point C will be the first in a new generation of nuclear power stations in the UK. The planned twin unit UK EPR is capable of generating 3,260MW of secure, low carbon electricity for 60 years.



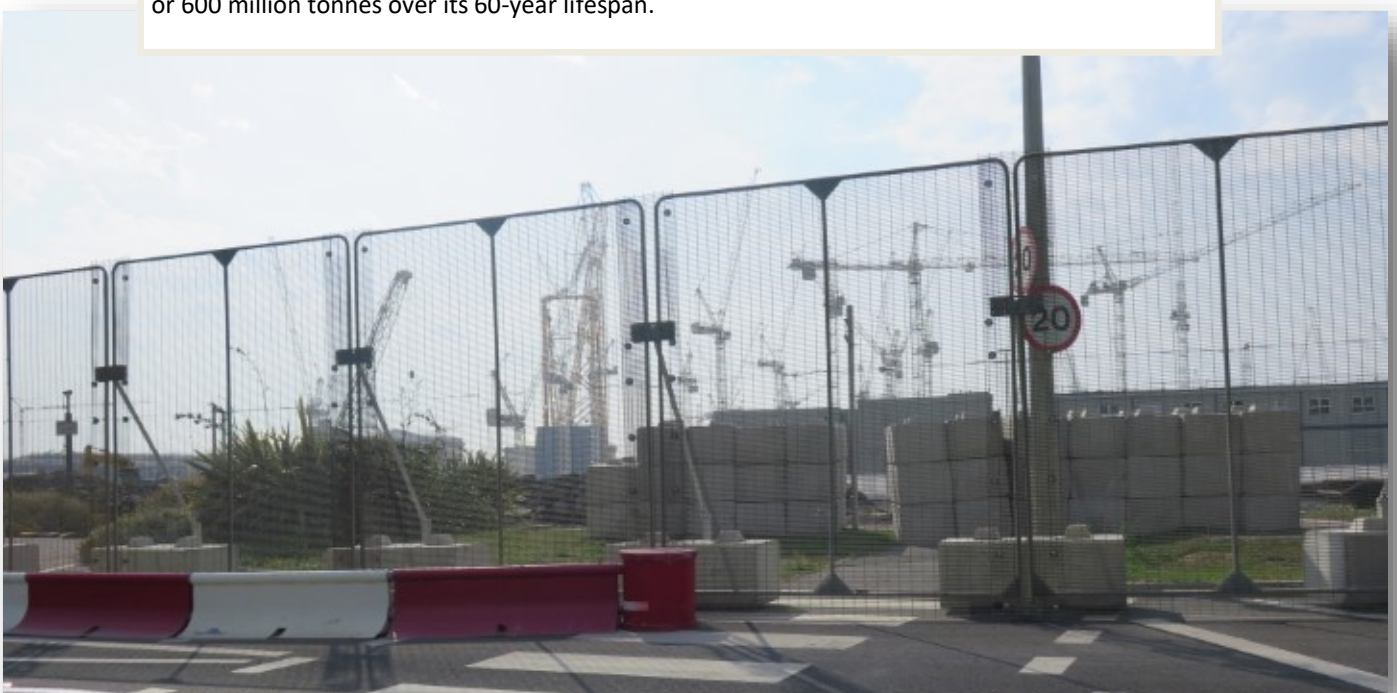
The reactor at Hinkley Point C

What is Hinkley Point C?

The first new nuclear power station to be built in the UK in over 20 years; Hinkley Point C in Somerset will provide low-carbon electricity for around 6 million homes, create thousands of jobs and bring lasting benefits to the UK economy.

Construction and operation of Hinkley Point C will create 25,000 employment opportunities, up to 1,000 apprenticeships and 64% of the project's construction value is predicted to go to UK companies.

Marking a significant milestone in the revitalisation of our nuclear power industry, Hinkley Point C will make a major contribution to the UK's move to reduce carbon emissions. The electricity generated by its two EPR reactors will offset 9 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions a year, or 600 million tonnes over its 60-year lifespan.











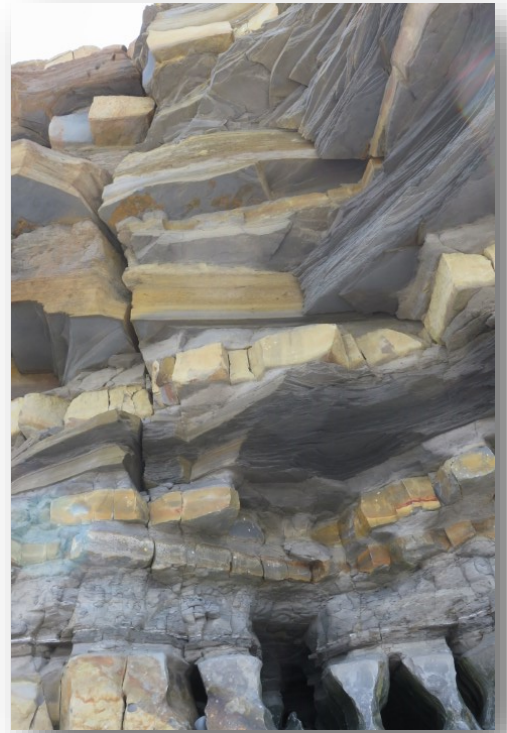




Photo History



DP organised Pop Up Paradise.....an eco campsite on the side of Chew Valley Lake. A superb location and it ran for the month of August







Photo History



Beau, Peachy and Binky





DP, Peachy and Lynn





BUBBLES





DP with Binky showing the flyers for the Power of Direct Action discussion that night

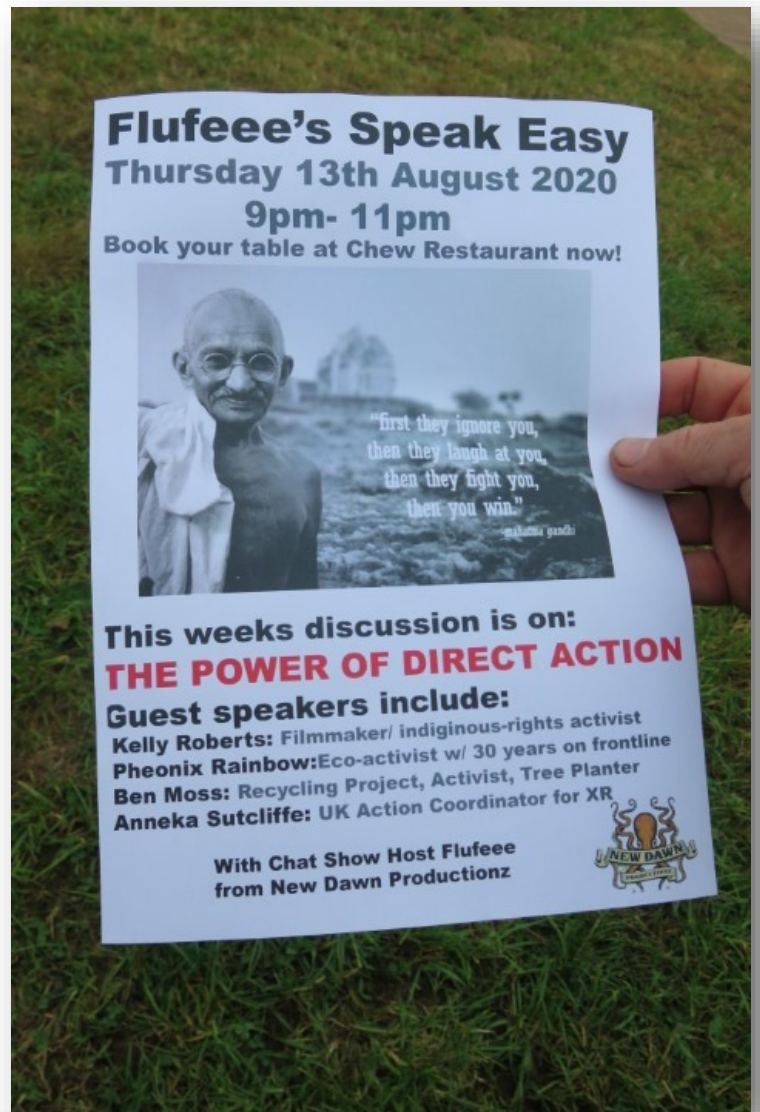




Photo History



Ben Moss, Recycling Project,
tree planter



DP (Flufee) , Chat Show Host



Annks Sutcliffe Extinction Rebellion,
UK action co-ordinator



Kelly Roberts, Filmmaker



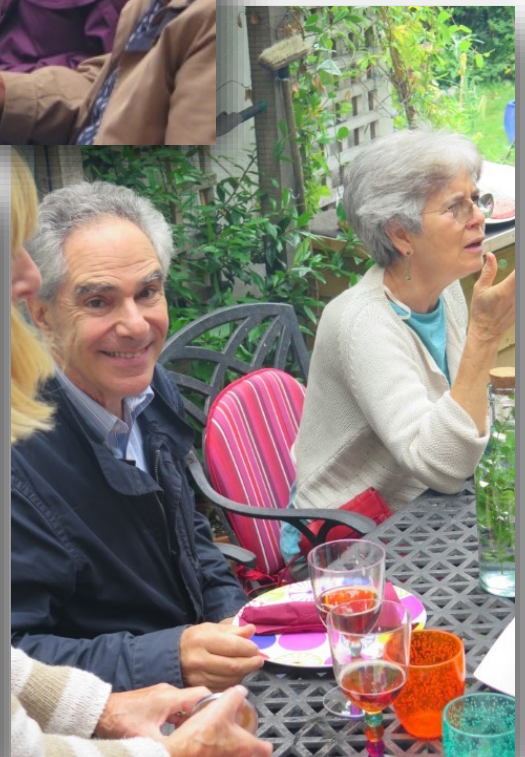
Pheonix Rainbow, eco-Activist



BBQ



Lucky with the weather for a bbq with Micky, Robbie, Steve & Joan





The Gentlemen's walking Club with Covid-respecting reduced numbers on a Hampstead walk in Sept 2020



Jeff



Alan



John

Norman



Neil



Myself



Peter





Photo History



Vivy & Walter
moved into their new apartment and
we enjoyed the usual





Photo History



Tube travel now is quite different. Empty carriages with masked travellers maintaining social distancing . Warning signs everywhere





Photo History

As we expected town to be pretty desolated we took a couple of bananas to nosh as we walked. Lynn spotted the closed fruit stall next to us sporting this 'banana log' and across the road was a 'banana bus'





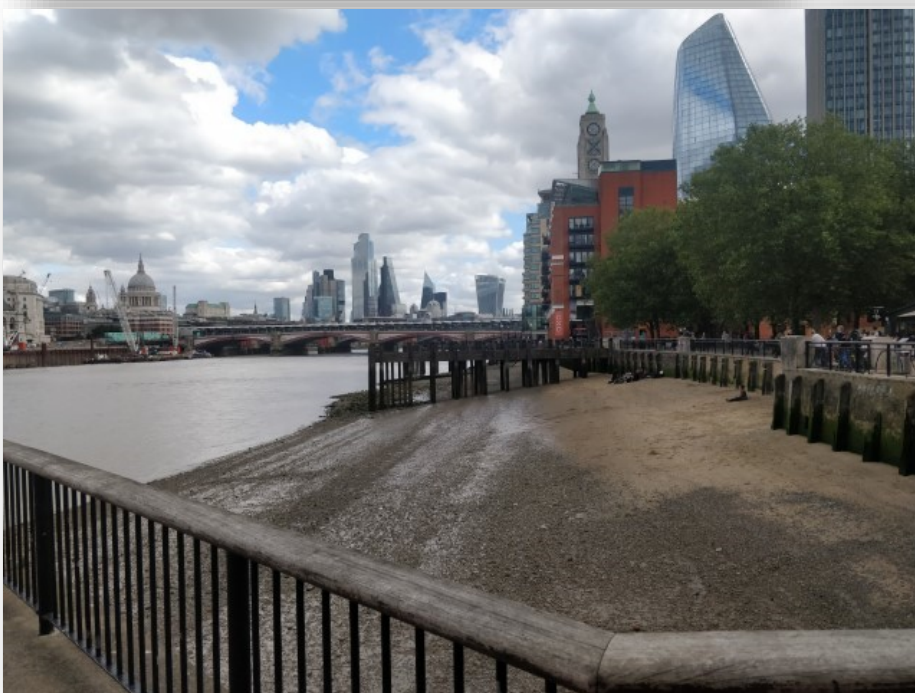
Photo History



Somerset House was deserted...cafes closed and fountains stopped without notice



Waterloo Bridge was very quiet and traffic restricted with wider pedestrian and cycle access



The 'Southbank beach' was deserted...no sand sculptures and very few people walking along the riverside



Still one of our favourite local walks;
Forty Hall. The fishing lakes, on the
site of The Elsing Palace were
quite depleted and the circular walk
here is always really enjoyable





Our ornamental shutters had suddenly given up the ghost and disintegrated so Evgeni and Dinko removed them ready for some new ones to replace them and gave the wooden fascia a lick of paint and also some gutter repairs ready for the winter.

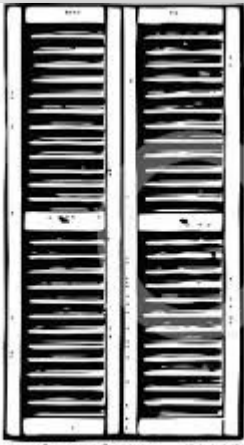




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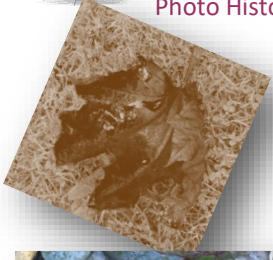


We enjoyed Combe House Hotel in the Quantock Hills so much we took a second short break before the winter weather set in.. We stopped at Marlow on route for a coffee break and enjoyed a sandwich in lovely wells on market day





Photo History



Even in the
few weeks
between our
visits we
could see a
change in the weath-







Two varied walks included a circuit above Holford where the hotel is situated in a wooded combe and the longer field footpaths ending in Kieve beach





Once the path climbed above the wooded valleys , the sea views were so special and the weather was tremendous. We had bought a deli-picnic in Wells and this was enjoyed in a wonderful dappled clearing by a stream

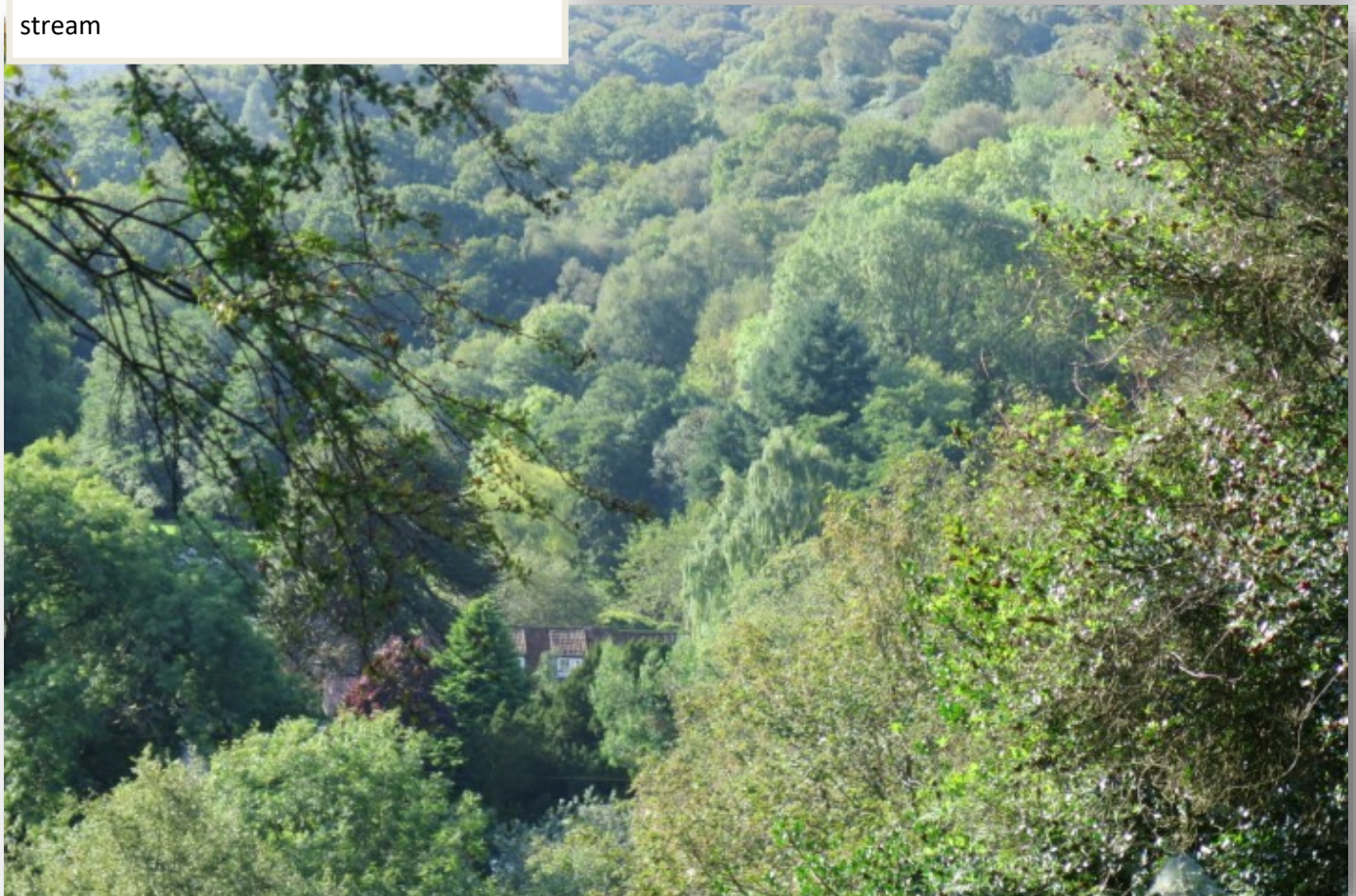




Photo History



Birds drop seeds on the hills and this splendid ro-wan tree was isolated and dramatic



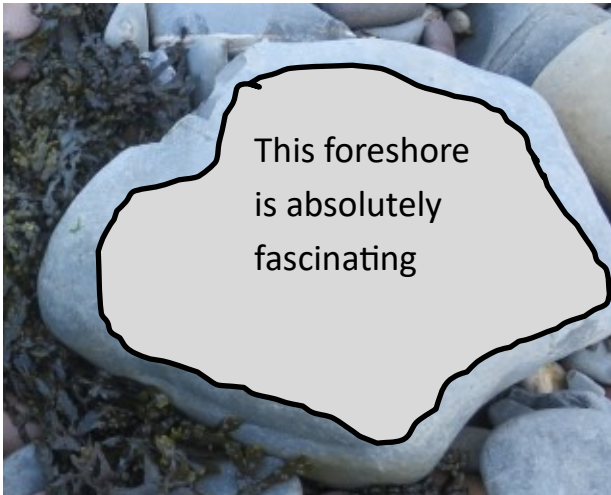






Photo History



On the way home we went via Bristol and met Binky at her fascinating apartment right on the edge of the gorge next to Clifton suspension bridge



It was a photographer's paradise...such an eclectic collection of art and objects. Every way I turned here were more photos waiting to be taken.





The lovely Binky makes really attractive face masks from available fabric off-cuts...so of course we placed an immediate order





Photo History



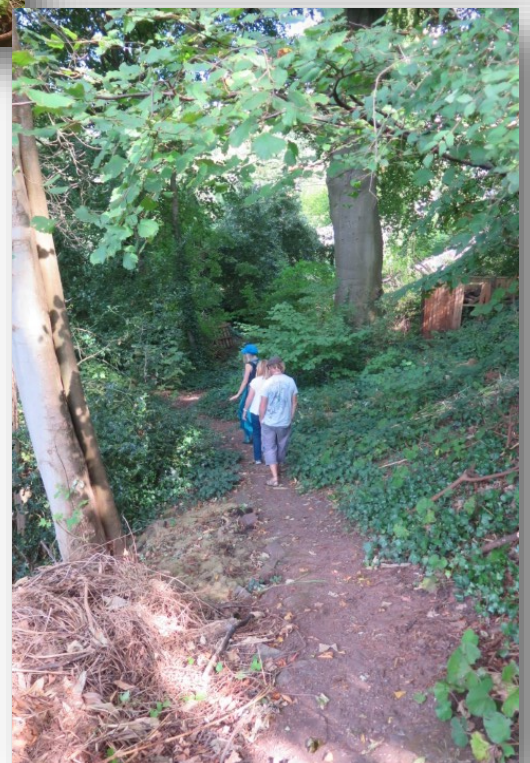


Photo History

The views from the wonderful Georgian house down onto the Avon Gorge

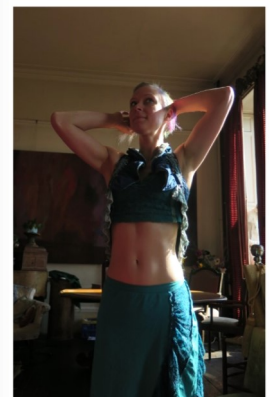


The fascinating communal garden at the rear of the terrace





Around Clifton





Enfield Park water meadows have matured beautifully in a short time and we always make a point of checking it out when we walk that way



The summer green algae on The New River Loop is destructive to wild life but the heron perched on the branch makes an interesting study



Photo History



Ally Pally...We enjoyed a drive in movie.

Ally Pally view over London after the drive in





Photo History



Lynn amazed at our potato crop grown on the pa-





Photo History



The books have now been delivered to Ireland, Australia and around the UK and the feedback was so positive. It makes it all worthwhile

Hi Ralph; since you visited this morning, I've done little else other than read stories in your book (including yours!). Really great stuff and you deserve the utmost credit for seeing this project through from beginning to end. Terrific!

Ivor

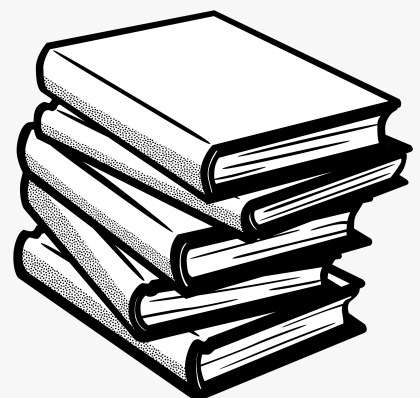
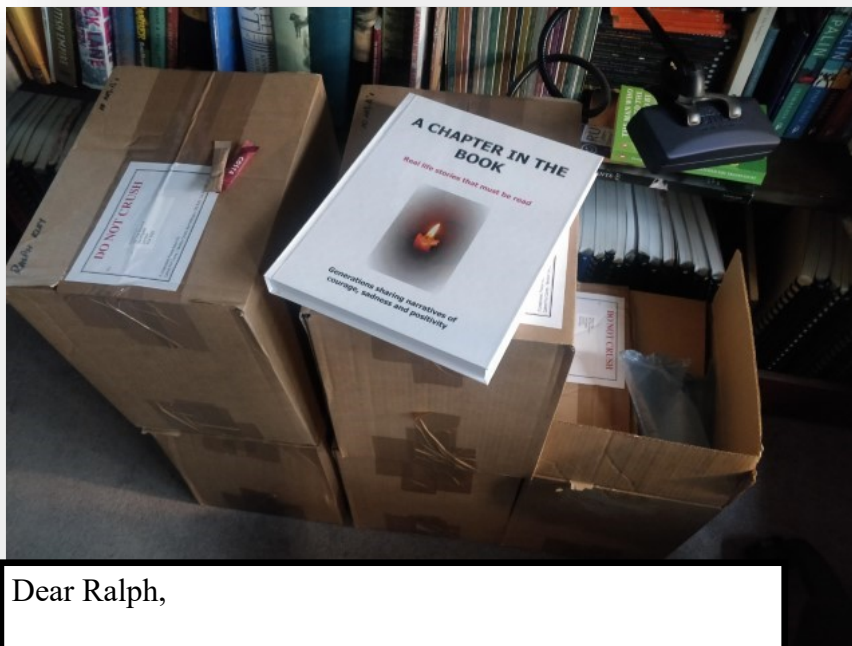
Dear Mr Dorling Kindersley

The books arrived yesterday afternoon, thank you for posting them. As you know I have a lot of books, and this one compares in quality with the best of them, so congratulations on putting it all together, which must have been a monumental task and merits you a statue in Broomfield Park.

The chapter on p. 108 was particularly interesting, but I really liked your own one, being beautifully illustrated and full of fascinating stories about your families, who, of course I knew or still know.

Martin

With best wishes to you and the family.



Dear Ralph,

I am absolutely thrilled with the book. It is wonderful and a lasting testament to those who have gone before us. You have put in untold hours and hours, months and months, weeks and weeks of work. You are simply AMAZING and I thank you for this from the bottom of my heart.

Lots of love, I think you might do another book of refugee memories, love to you and Lynn, who supports you so loyally in every endeavour. What a great team you are,



Marion xxxxxxxxxxxx

The books arrived safely.

Congratulations - a magnificent achievement.

Rosh Hashana greetings

Yanky

Sorry I missed you but thanks for delivering the books. Haven't had a chance to look at them yet but they certainly look very impressive. Shana Tova. Love Monica



Signal Pole on the Pier, 1907

Indian ink wash, brush, pen and coloured pencil on paper
Private collection



Léon Spilliaert (1881–1946) was born in the coastal town of Ostend. He moved to Brussels at the age of 20, and lived and worked between the two cities for the rest of his life. Self-taught, he forged his own artistic identity, which was shaped by the affinity he felt with writers and thinkers such as Edgar Allan Poe and Friedrich Nietzsche.

Spilliaert's work is characterised by dramatic perspectives and a quiet luminescence. He is best known for a sequence of enigmatic self-portraits and for his atmospheric night-time scenes of Ostend.

This is the first monographic exhibition of Spilliaert's work in the UK and showcased some 80 works on paper – from images of his home town and the coast, to later works capturing the tranquillity of the forest outside Brussels. It will bring together works from public and private collections across Belgium, France and the USA, presenting a journey through the lifetime of a remarkably insightful and unusual artist.

My favourites are shown here







Hey grandma and grandad! how are you? I miss you both loads and hopefully see you soon. I thought you might be interested to see some pictures from my work experience last week-my friends dad is a film maker and he asked if I wanted to go and help out in on one of the shoots and I did... here are some of the pictures it was so fun!

Love you both so much!!



Having fun wild swimming in a local river





Ben was unsure if he should wear the mask or if his massive sundae should be masked...





Photo History



23rd Sept 2020 there were 30 covid-related deaths in the UK.

Amazing news!!! Boris has discovered a coronavirus mutation that is now totally time dependent...apparently ten o'clock is the witching hour. If you leave any hospitality venue by this time you are totally protected!! What a load of rot.. The only victims will be the hospitality trade who are really struggling to continue in business. Who is he kidding...what sense is there in this totally arbitrary decision? I personally think it is like sabre-rattling. If you don't comply we may 'have to' introduce stricter measures. There are always going to be those amongst us that flatly refuse to use common sense and they will continue to be amongst us. No ten o'clock curfew will make any difference.

Amazing news

COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Last updated: September 23, 2020, 13:36 GMT

[Graphs](#) - [Countries](#) - [Death Rate](#) - [Symptoms](#) - [Incubation](#) - [Transmission](#) - [News](#)

Coronavirus Cases:

31,851,963

[view by country](#)

Deaths:

976,596

Recovered:

23,451,499

ACTIVE CASES

7,423,868

Currently Infected Patients

7,361,758 (99%)
in Mild Condition

62,110 (1%)
Serious or Critical

CLOSED CASES

24,428,095

Cases which had an outcome:

23,451,499 (96%)
Recovered / Discharged

976,596 (4%)
Deaths

I looked on line and notice a real discrepancy in alleged figures and even the way in which our 'so-called' statistics are shown keeps varying so one is unable to compare the actual incidence of fatalities.

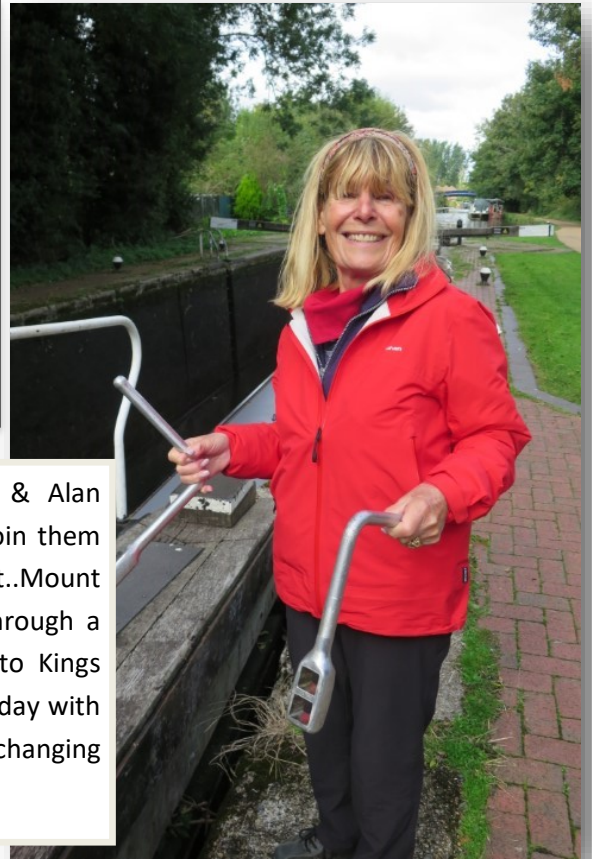
I am no lover of conspiracy theories but is there a hidden agenda in keeping the population in fear??...so easy to give statistics and call anyone who does not 'bite' a thoughtless rebel, antisocial and responsible for potential hospitalisation of vulnerable people and worse .

With schools now in almost full time return to a near normal timetable I have seen crowds of youngsters totally without respecting social distancing and that is evident when one drives past any school. Why therefore should a strict 6 person limit be imposed on households with 'sneaking' encouraged to catch any disregarding this arbitrary figure.. I am happy to comply with sensible edicts but am constantly worried about how society is changing. Are we being manipulated.???

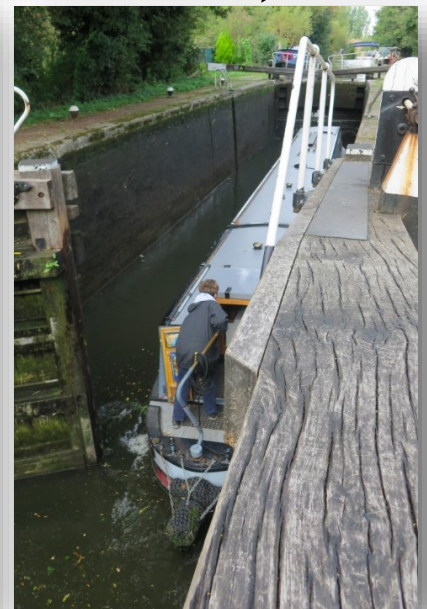
This page might appear to be a rebellious outcry from me..but one must question things that appear to be contrary to common sense and to look for what could be hidden agendas . I still feel that our politicians are, with very few exceptions, not in politics for altruistic reasons. They are there for personal glorification and gain. Their private lives are so divorced from reality and certainly quite different to ours...how can they possibly represent me. Yes , call me a cynic...I prefer to be known as a realist



Late Sept 2020 Monica & Alan (and Gus) invited us to join them on their narrow boat..Mount Rose, We slowly went through a few locks and returned to Kings Langley. It was a tranquil day with the weather noticeably changing from summer to autumn



Monica skilfully entering the lock





I am very aware of the differences shown in these last few Photo History volumes but I guess that is how the Corona virus is effecting us personally. We try to continue as before but everything around us has changed and we are very aware that with the new edicts in place , this will prove to be the final 'death knell' for many many businesses. Also many people are now hearing that their job no longer exists and they have personal commitments and no way out of a terrible situation. The furlough payments are either ceasing or being greatly reduced and as a consequence many people are now being made redundant. Lynn and I feel that once the weather gets cold and people can no longer enjoy the outside life added to a realism shot of their situation it will be devastating for so many.

How a country can cope with this remains to be seen but our debt mountain is enormous added to the final parting with the EU without (at this stage) knowing if we have a workable trade agreement may mean food costs escalating overnight.

I know I sound like a pessimist but if one listens to the sad stories on radio phone ins and then counteracts these with those inane comments from the political leaders and representatives it is as if there are two parallel universes totally incapable of meeting..

The whole idea of these volumes are that they are Photo Hisory...written at the time and not later in hindsight , so I am sure many of my comments and feelings will be shown to be far too negative. I do hope so...but at lease I have an outlet for my thoughts.

